Golden Quadrilateral Project

1962. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has ascertained the reasons for abnormal delay in the completion of Golden Quadrilateral Project;

(b) if so, the action taken to complete the Golden Quadrilateral Project as per revised schedule;

(c) whether the quantity of roads constructed under Golden Quadrilateral Project is sub-standard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure compliance of quality control norms in the construction of roads, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has completed 5701 km length out of 5846 km length of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-I. The delays in some of the stretches are due to time taken in rescinding and re-awarding of contracts of non-performing contractors, land acquisition and in obtaining requisite clearances etc. For the stretches included in the balance length of 145 km, 11 contracts on GQ have been terminated due to consistent non-performance by the contractors and work has already been re-awarded in 9 contracts. NHAI is also constantly monitoring the progress of work by holding regular review meetings with contractors and consultants with a view to ensure expeditious completion of work.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, in order to ensure quality and maintenance of standards, supervision consultants/independent consultants have been appointed on all contracts. NHAI officers also carry out inspection checks on site, in keeping with the specifications prescribed in the contract.

Accidents on expressways

†1963. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether express highways in the country are becoming the sites of deadly accidents these days;

(b) the number of accidents that took place last year, and the extent of loss of life and property caused by such accidents;

(c) the efforts being made by Government to check these accidents; and

(d) the suggestions being given by National Highways Authority of India and Central Road Research Institute in this regard alongwith the action being taken thereon?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The total number of road accidents in the country, road accidents that occurred on the Expressways in the country and the number of persons killed in these road accidents during the years 2005 and 2006 are given below:—

Year	Total number of road accidents	Number of road accidents occurred on the Expressways	Number of persons killed in all the roads accidents	Number of persons killed in road accidents occurred on the Expressways
2005	439255	6236	94968	8754
2006	460920	4778	105749	6343

(c) The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, this department has taken several steps to improve road safety for road users which are as under:—

(i) Road safety is an integral part of road design at the planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.

(ii) Various steps to enhance road safety such as road furniture, road markings/road signs, cautionary boards, introduction of Highway Traffic Management System using Intelligent Transport System, enhancement of discipline among contractors during construction, road safety audit on selected stretches, have been undertaken by National Highways Authority of India.

(iii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector being implemented by the Department since 1997-98 under plan activities.

(iv) Involvement of NGOs for road safety activities by Department of Road Transport and Highways and National Highways Authority of India.

(v) Setting up of Driving Training School in the country.

(vi) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness both through the audio-visual and print media.

(vii) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.

(viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.

(ix) Providing cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km. on each of its completed stretches of National Highways under its Operation and Maintenance contracts.

(x) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

(d) Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways (MoSRT and H) has not received any suggestion from NHAI on accidents on Expressways. Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) has in the recent past, carried out the following studies on this issue:—

(i) Road Safety Audit of NOIDA Toll Bridge Expressway (November, 2001);

(ii) Mumbai Pune Expressway — Safety Audit (July, 2004);

(iii) Road Safety Audit for conversion of Delhi-Gurgaon Section of NH-8 (14.30 km. to 42.00 km.) into Access-controlled Highway, June, 2008.

Certain suggestions/recommendations have been given by CRRI on accidents on Expressways. Some of the important recommendations provided by CRRI are as below:—

i. Improvement of Safety at entry and exit points of Expressway.

ii. Use of Traffic Control Devices like Road Signs (Chevron road signs) markings and signals.

iii. Provision of Road Side objects and obstacles like crash barriers, safety fencing, clear zones etc. for hazards like trees, signs posts, open drains.

iv. Improvement of cross-section design elements like roadways, shoulders, medians, drainage etc. for better safety.

v. Safety at service areas like motels, petrol pumps.

vi. Special provisions for safety of non-users of expressway like pedestrians, cyclists, two-wheelers and other non-motorized road users as the facilities.

vii. Augmentation of Safety at Side slopes, junctions, service roads.

viii. Better safety Provision at Toll plazas were also provided.

ix. Better Safety in tunnels for Mumbai-Pune expressway.

x. Recommendations on non-engineering measures like enforcement, vehicle operation and maintenance, use of passenger vehicles, vehicles, driver behavior and education.

Action on the recommendations of CRRI is to be taken by various State Government agencies like Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Ltd., New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA) etc.

Annual plans and periodical renewal programmes

†1964. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that annual plans are approved generally in the months of June/July every year and as such is it possible to have the periodical renewal programmes in the months of July/August;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.